

# STAFF NEWS



Communicating with Professionals in Corrections and Parole

## CDCR Honors National Crime Victims' Rights Week Statewide



CDCR Employee Gordon Alder plays *Amazing Grace* on the bagpipes to kick off the Crime Victims' Week Moment of Silence at CDCR headquarters on April 23, 2007. Behind him are shirts painted by survivors of sexual assault, expressing their pain as they heal. The display is courtesy of the Clothesline Project.

### *Strengthened Restitution and Victim Services Announced*

On April 23, CDCR Secretary James E. Tilton announced that half of all money received by inmates with court-ordered restitution – either earned or sent to them by others – will be sent to victims and survivors of violent crimes as restitution.

"I am pleased to announce that the rights of victims and survivors to collect on restitution, judgments and other direct orders from the court are stronger than ever here at CDCR – thanks to the assistance of victims' rights advocates," Secretary Tilton said. "Our staff has closed all the loopholes so that 50 cents of every dollar earned by an inmate with a restitution order – or sent to an inmate by family and others – is collected on behalf of victims and survivors of the perpetrator's violent crimes."

The announcement came during the Department's observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The CDCR has a long history of supporting the rights of victims and survivors of violent crimes. When the Department reorganized on July 1, 2005, the Department's victims' rights advocate was elevated to an Assistant Secretary level position and reports directly to the Secretary. Statewide, several dozen adult and juvenile facilities have planned victims' week observations and activities.

A number of reforms and changes were made since the CDCR reorganization that strengthens the Department's responsiveness to victims and survivors of violent crimes.

Those changes include: maximizing restitution collection from inmates under State and Federal laws; activating direct orders of restitutions from the courts to CDCR; initiating restitution collec-

## CDCR Secretary Tilton Tours Centinela State Prison to View Overcrowding; Highlights the Need for Reform

CDCR Secretary James E. Tilton toured Centinela State Prison on March 22 with Warden Victor Almager to view the impacts of overcrowding, and highlight the urgent need for comprehensive prison reform.

This visit is part of an ongoing effort by Secretary Tilton to visit critical locations statewide and see firsthand the impact of overcrowding, restricted programming due to overcrowding

and the impact that has on staff and inmates.

"California's prison system is in the midst of a severe overcrowding crisis. Concrete steps must be taken immediately to fix the situation and protect public safety," said Secretary Tilton. "Centinela State Prison is experiencing many of the same problems as the prison system as a whole. California has nearly 17,000 inmates out of 171,000 living on double-

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HONOR, Page 6

# Governor Schwarzenegger Makes Five CDCR Appointments

Governor Schwarzenegger recently made a number of critical CDCR appointments, including undersecretary for Program Support, and chief deputy secretary for the Division of Adult Operations.

Stephen Kessler of Elk Grove, was appointed undersecretary of Program Support for the CDCR. He has served as chief operating officer for the Department of Finance (DOF) since 2006 and served as chief deputy director from 2005 to 2006.

Kessler previously served as deputy director of operations for DOF, where he was responsible for the day-to-day operations and management of the Department. He was the assistant program budget manager for the health and human services unit

retary of the Division of Adult Operations. He has served for over 20 years in the CDCR and served as acting chief deputy secretary of the Division of Adult Operations.

He was previously deputy director of the Division of Adult Operations from 2006 to 2007. Kernan was warden of California State Prison, Sacramento from 2004 to 2006 and warden, chief deputy and associate warden at Mule Creek State Prison from 2003 to 2004. Kernan began his career with the Department of Corrections in



*Secretary Tilton congratulates Stephen Kessler (l) on his appointment.*

1983 as a correctional officer.

Charles "Chuck" Pattillo of Folsom, has been appointed General Manager of the Prison Industry Authority. He has served as the Chief

in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation since 1984 and served as acting warden of High Desert State Prison. In 2005, Felker was acting warden of the California Institution for Men in Chino.

Robert Horel of Brookings, OR, has been appointed warden of Pelican Bay State Prison. He has served as acting warden of Pelican Bay State Prison since 2006. Horel previously served as chief deputy warden at California State Prison, Solano from 2005 to 2006, where he managed the daily operations of the prison. From 2004 to 2005, Horel served as chief of fiscal operations for the former Youth and Adult Correctional Agency, now the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.



*Scott Kernan (c) is sworn in by Secretary Tilton. Ron Cappel (l) serves as witness.*

of DOF. Prior to that, Kessler served as deputy director of the administrative services division in the Department of Corrections, now the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. He has also served in several executive management positions within the Department of Health Services.

Scott Kernan of Rancho Murieta, has been appointed chief deputy sec-

Assistant General Manager of the PIA and the Executive Officer of the Prison Industry Board since May 2005. He has extensive experience in finance, legislative affairs, retail and business, including critical assignments with both the state Legislature and Department of Finance.

Thomas Felker of Susanville, has been appointed warden of High Desert State Prison. He has served

## Submissions

*Staff News* publicize staff activities, innovative programs, and transmits important information to the rank-and-file. To this end, we need stories and pictures to be submitted for publication. Please send your submissions to:

[CDCRnews@cdcr.ca.gov](mailto:CDCRnews@cdcr.ca.gov)

# CDCR Kicks Off First-Ever Chowchilla Family Express to Bus Children to Visit Incarcerated Mothers

*New Gender-Responsive Strategies Program Provides Free Transportation to Help Better Unite Inmate Families*

The first busloads from the Chowchilla Family Express arrived at the women's prisons on March 25 car-



*The event attracted significant media attention.*

rying children and family members of inmates, as the CDCR began a new program to help female inmates and their families remain connected during incarceration.

Funded by CDCR and Women and Criminal Justice with a \$400,000 annual budget, the new bus program will bring children to their mothers housed in Valley State Prison for Women (VSPW) and Central California Women's Facility (CCWF) from various parts of California every Sunday. The program recognizes the value of family reunification to the welfare of children and the eventual post-prison success of inmates. The program will send an average of six buses each month from northern and southern California, and is currently scheduled through September 2007.

"We are excited about the Chowchilla Family Express because it provides yet another rehabilitative option for so many women offenders," said CDCR Associate Director, Female Offender Programs and Services, Wendy Still, who noted that the majority of those inmates are moth-

ers. "This bus program provides unique opportunities for female offenders to reunite with their children, who are in most cases hundreds of miles away. We remain committed to extending our responsibility for female offenders beyond their incarceration to improve their chances of success when they return to their communities."

More than half of the women in state prisons never see their children during their incarceration. Some of the children traveling in the March event or future events have not seen their mothers in more than a year. National Institute of Corrections research shows that children who have regular parent visits demonstrate better



*Family reconciliation is a necessary first step for female offenders.*

emotional and social adjustment as well as a lower degree of juvenile delinquency. In addition, their parents demonstrate lower rates of recidivism and of higher rates of family reunification when they are released. An important part a female offender's rehabilitation is building and strength-

ening systems of family support and family involvement while she is in prison. Their support can enhance their eventual return and success in their community.

Planning for the new bus service began nearly two years ago, following the success of the Get on the Bus program jointly sponsored by CDCR and the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles. That program began in 1998 but only operated on Mother's Day and Father's Day weekends. The Chowchilla Family Express expands that program.

"Visitation programs are a cost-effective crime prevention tool," said Eric DeBode, Executive Director for the Chowchilla Family Express. "By helping to maintain family bonds, the Chowchilla Family Express will help

parents and children stay together and hopefully reduce the likelihood of people re-offending—and that's good for everyone."

The actual work for families and their children begins several months in advance of their trip. Trained volunteers meet with families to process the paperwork needed for prison visits. On the day of the trip, families and volunteers meet buses at various locations to travel to Chowchilla. The trip is usually a long one, and children are served breakfast, and given a bag of age-appropriate activities suitable for travel. When they arrive at the

*(Please see Bus, Page 6)*

# Centinela State Prison, A Risk Intelligent Model

Victor Almager, Warden at Centinela State Prison, works closely with his staff to proactively manage risk at his institution. He accomplishes this through an interactive process of reviewing staff practices, identifying patterns result-



Warden Victor Almager

ing in higher risk situations and working with his employees to identify new alternatives to mitigate those high risk issues. He shared with us his thoughts on Workers Compensa-

tion Fraud and a Hot Weather Policy Centinela is developing to keep staff and inmates safe in their desert location.

Workers Compensation Claims in CDCR represent about 66 percent of the Cost of Risk total liabilities. Recognizing that public safety functions performed by correctional staff entails significant legitimate risk, Almager also seeks to mitigate those risks associated with what he terms “the underground economy related to workers compensation fraud activity.”

He suggests:

- Development of a plan of action that an institution can follow to aid in identifying, investigating and addressing potential fraudulent claims

- Training of institutional personnel to be proficient in recognizing suspected fraudulent activities
- Designation of secure and expediting reporting channels, such as direct websites and hotlines and more direct investigation
- Development of enhanced internal control and monitoring of the review function.

Warden Almager strongly believes in bringing his staff back to work as soon as possible. He does this by working with a “light duty policy,” that matches a person’s abilities to identified assignments. This alone has significantly mitigated the cost of workers compensation claims at Centinela. Statistically, it has been

(Please see Risk, Page 8)

## Correctional Peace Officers Memorial Run Set for May 19

By CLAUDIA D. LILE

Parole Agent II, Specialist  
Division of Adult Parole Operations

The 2nd Annual California Correctional Peace Officers Memorial Run will be held on Saturday, May 19, on the west steps of the State Capitol.

Four California Correctional Peace Officers who were killed while performing inmate transportation duties will be honored at this year’s ceremony with special representation of the CPOMR Medal of Honor to the attending family members of these fallen heroes.

Additionally, the 2007 CPOMR Medal of Distinction will be awarded to specific Correctional Peace Officers from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation - Transport Units from CDCR-Adult and Juvenile Justice Divisions.



The 2006 CPOMR ceremony.

This year is also the first of an ongoing call to honor individual law enforcement agencies that assist institutional and field parole agents in keeping our communities safe.

Santa Clara County law enforcement agencies have been chosen to be honored to receive the 2007 CPOMR Blue Ribbon Medal of Distinction: The San Jose P.D. Violent Crime En-

forcement Team (VCET), Santa Clara County S.A.F.E. Task Force, Mt. View P.D. Special Services Unit, Milpitas P.D. Gang Intelligence Unit, and the Santa Clara County District Attorney’s Office.

This is a “family-friendly” event sponsored in part by Valley Harley-Davidson, Stockton; Auburn Harley-Davidson, Folsom Harley-Davidson, Rocklin Harley-Davidson, the Sacramento County Deputy Sheriffs Association, Deputy Sheriffs Association of Alameda County, the Blue Knights® Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, California 18 Chapter (Tracy, CA) , Mule Creek Prison CCPOA Chapter, and the California Correctional Peace Officers Association (CCPOA), and the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation (CPOF).

(Please see Run, Page 9)

# Division of Juvenile Justice *Green Sheet*

## SYRCC DJJ Youths Raise Money for Children's Hospital of Los Angeles Pediatric Cancer Unit

By **DEBORAH LEONG**

Psychologist, Sutter Unit  
SYCRCC

Within the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), victims-centered assemblies and classes are a foundation to rehabilitation.

As a part of their change process, the wards of the Southern Youth Correctional Reception Center and Clinic (SYCRCC) participate in a "Therapeutic Community" whose activities include discussing treatment issues and participating in restorative justice activities. This past holiday season, the youths of Sutter Therapeutic Community initiated two holiday service projects to support the elderly and to raise money for pediatric cancer patients.

"We wanted to help the elderly and kids" said the youth Therapeutic Community chairperson, who came up with the idea and encouraged the participation of other wards in the past several months. "This is a way we can give back" he said.

Youths, with the help of staff and the Foster Grandparents Program made 120 Christmas Angels for a local convalescent home. DJJ youths also raised \$187 for Los Angeles Children's Hospital Pediatric Cancer Unit. The actual \$187 may not sound like a lot of money. But as these youths are paid (on average) 37 cents per hour. Their gesture is heart-felt. Notably, these holiday service projects were of the ward's own volition and initiative. Monies were collected (by voucher) by wards



*From left, Dr. Deborah Leong, Psychologist, Ted Bonzon, SCWS, Gabby Sanchez (c) from Children's Hospital Los Angeles and Reception Center Superintendent Cassandra Stansberry (r), stand with wards from Sutter Unit.*

from wards for this worthy cause.

As an adjunct to the Sutter Program's regular treatment groups, wards participating in the service projects discussed the experience of those in convalescent homes. They also discussed the experience of terminally ill children and where their hope is derived. Similar therapeutic community projects help wards to learn about empathy, volunteerism and kindness. Several of the service project wards have stated they felt "meaning" in their lives as a result of service project participation and plan for serving in the community once released.

Children's Hospital was so touched by the gesture of the DJJ

youths that they came to the facility host an assembly to discuss the impact of the donation and to encourage the youths to make changes in their lives. The assembly was held on Feb. 9. Ms. Gabby Sanchez, representative from Children's Hospital came to receive the donation and to speak with DJJ youths. Dr. Leong and Ted Bonzon represented the Sutter Treatment Program and Pam Robinson represented the federally-sponsored Foster Grandparents Program. DJJ youths gave speeches on their experience in giving and volunteerism. Said one youth: "This is about restorative justice. Volunteering is a small way I can give back."

## HONOR...*(From page one)*

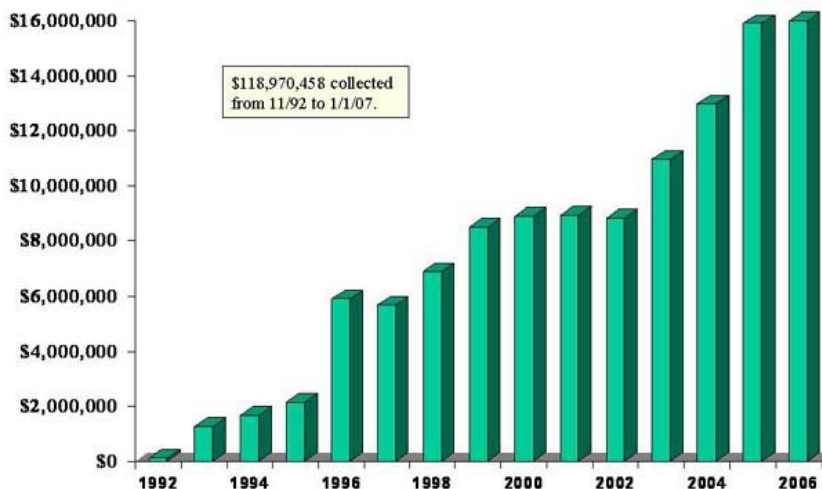
tion with the first week an inmate is received by CDCR; establishing a victims call center; and, extending that restitution obligation more effectively as the inmate transitions to parole.

Susan Fisher, who serves as Governor Schwarzenegger's Crime Victim Advocate, applauds CDCR efforts to date, but added that changes are still needed by other partners in the criminal justice system to best represent the needs of victims and survivors.

"Despite significant progress in providing rights and services to crime victims over the past two decades, large segments of the population are still underserved," said Fisher. "It is my hope that the increased collection of victim restitution funds will allow us to provide more services for crime victims, including those with disabilities and mental illness, and victims who are immigrants, teenagers, elderly, or live in rural areas. Every victim deserves respect, resources, restoration, and justice — every time."

The CDCR Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services (OVSRS) provides advocacy services

## Annual Adult Restitution Collections 1992 to Present



as well as supports rehabilitative opportunities for offenders. Specifically, the OVSRS maintains a comprehensive victim services program and supports justice practices to ensure offender rehabilitation and accountability to victims, the community, and to themselves.

"Crime Victims' Rights Week offers us all the opportunity to recom-

mit ourselves to ensuring that every victim is afforded his or her legal rights in our criminal justice system," said Sandi Menefee, Assistant Secretary for the OVSRS. "We must continue to increase our collective efforts to protect, restore, and expand crime victims' rights and services so that they apply to every victim."

## BUS...*(From page three)*

prison, they will spend several hours visiting, sharing a meal, and having a family photograph taken. This photograph often becomes one of the most treasured remembrances of the day for the mother and her children.

"This is a blessing because so many of the women have been estranged from their families for so long," wrote inmates involved in the Women's Advisory Council at Central California Women's Facility. "To reunite with your loved ones is a blessing."

Participating in the March event

were Sen. Gloria Romero (D-Los Angeles), who worked closely with CDCR and the Archdiocese to ensure funding; Wendy Still, Associate Director of CDCR Female Offender Programs and Services; Sister Suzanne Jabro, Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles; Eric DeBode, Executive Director of the Chowchilla Family Express; VSPW Warden (A) Tina Hornbeak; and CCWF Chief Deputy Warden Mary Lattimore.

As part of its comprehensive female offender reform efforts, the CDCR created a strategic plan in 2006 to improve outcomes for female

offenders. It implemented gender-appropriate operational practices, programming, medical, mental health and dental care, and "wrap-around" treatment programs and services. CDCR, using previously cited research, found that female offenders differ from their male counterparts in a variety of ways. For example, a female offender is likely to have been the primary caretaker of young children at the time of her arrest, to have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse, and have distinct physical and mental health needs.

# North Kern State Prison Nets Safety Program of Year

By **BARRY BOLTON**

AA/PIO North Kern State Prison

The North Kern State Prison (NKSP) safety program was awarded Program of the Year at the Office of Risk Management first annual risk summit conference in Anaheim. The award recognizes the prison's collaboration between the Safety Committee, Return-To-Work Program, Fire Services, and Administration.

"Not only was NKSP acknowledged for the fewest workers compensation injury claims, but we also had the lowest overall workers compensation costs in any CDCR prison in 2005-2006" said NKSP Fire Chief/Safety Officer, Lonnie Driscoll.



*North Kern State Prison Fire Chief/Safety Officer Lonnie Driscoll (r) discusses the safety Program of the Year award with Return-To-Work Coordinator Bertha Mojica.*

Bertha Mojica, the NKSP Return-To-Work Coordinator, described the award as, "the most prestigious award presented at the event." Ms. Mojica went on to say, "It's great to be recognized on a departmental level for all of the hard work we do. Commu-

nication with all employees is the key to a safe work environment."

Chief Driscoll summed up the award, "This is the culmination of being extremely proactive with our safety program. We've gone to great effort to avoid injuries, like issuing boot covers in the kitchens to help prevent slips and falls, and identifying and correcting workplace hazards."

Warden Lydia Hense said, "I'm extremely proud of the safety program here at North Kern State Prison and hope this is the first of many awards."

## Pelican Bay Staff Honored by Del Norte County



*The 13th annual Law Enforcement Administrators In Del Norte County, (LEADN), Community Recognition Awards were held March 20 to recognize employees and volunteers efforts in 2006. Warden Robert Horel presented nine Special Recognition Awards honoring individuals for their joint effort in the development and implementation of the realignment of the General Population at Pelican Bay State Prison. This realignment was necessary to change how violent inmates are housed in an effort to curb escalating violence within the general population. In addition, CDCR Officer R. Saylor received special recognition from the Crescent City Police Department, for his assistance in the apprehension of a fleeing felon through Crescent City.*

## Staff News

### The Electronic Edition

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## TOUR..(From page one)

and triple-bunks in gymnasiums, dayrooms, and other spaces not intended for housing.”

Centinela State Prison currently houses 4,949 inmates, with nearly 120 inmates living in temporary emergency beds in dayrooms, gymnasiums and classrooms designed for rehabilitative activities. An additional 440 emergency beds are expected to be activated in the near future.

“This severe overcrowding places inmates and prison staff at risk.

When inmates are spending the majority of their day in a cell or on a bunk, it increases tension inside the

institution that can lead to violence,” said Secretary Tilton. “By relieving overcrowding, we will give wardens tools to provide programming to those inmates who could benefit from them the most. We will also give them increased flexibility to bet-

ter deal with those inmates who are causing the most problems.”

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has unveiled a comprehensive prison reform proposal that will help to strengthen public safety by building and modernizing correctional facilities, reforming California’s parole and sentencing structures, and placing a renewed focus on reducing recidivism through rehabilitation programs.

Upgrades and expansions at Centinela State Prison are part of the prison reform proposals. Approximately \$86.9 million is being proposed for construction, to add low- and medium-security beds (Level I and II) to the prison, which currently



Secretary Tilton talks to an inmate.

(Please see Tour, Page 9)

## RISK..(From page four)

shown that the sooner an employer is able to return an employee back to work, the better the outcome for all concerned. The Return-to-Work program, in fact, has contributed significantly to the ongoing decline in Workers’ Compensation costs for the Department. Over the past six months, utilizing the interactive approach described, Centinela has seen significant improvement in Workers Compensation statistics. This includes:

- A 50 percent decline in employees off work on Workers Compensation.
- A 66 percent decrease in employees off less than 60 days
- A 50 percent decrease in employees off more than 60 days
- A 33 percent decrease in employees off more than 180 days
- A 25 percent decrease in employees off more than 365 days

The intense summer heat at Centinela, as well as other institutions located within desert communities, brings with it health and safety risks to CDCR staff and the inmate population. When temperatures reach 95 degrees, there are safety protocols that apply to inmates. Those using certain medications are at greater risk for heat related illness. Due to the intense climate at Centinela, inmates diagnosed as Enhanced Outpatient (EOP) or Correctional Clinical Case Management System (CCCMS) or transferred to other facilities. The safe transportation of these inmates requires close collaboration between medical and transportation staff. Timing of transports is imperative to avoid traffic and prolonged exposure to intense heat.

At Centinela, golf carts and air conditioned vehicles are routinely used to transport staff throughout the prison’s outside environment, especially when responding to emergencies.

Almager’s staff is currently developing a training module to assist employees in the quick identification of warning signs related to heat stroke, to enhance prevention processes and to rapidly and knowledgeably respond to heat related issues affecting both inmates and staff.

Since his assignment to Centinela State Prison, Warden Almager has assessed and managed risk as it is identified. He is looking at risk strategically and looking at alternatives to existing challenges by drawing on his experience; Almager served as the first Return to Work Coordinator in CDCR at California State Prison Sacramento in 1987.

His approach to managing risk is bound to make a difference and serves as a model for other like institutions. In future issues we will continue to shine the spotlight on other model programs in order to share the challenges and successes throughout the organization.

## Tour..(From page eight)

is a Level III facility. The proposal would add 590 beds, 400 of which would be dorm style, consistent with low security inmate use, as well as other associated construction on the site. The new beds will help eliminate the prison's use of temporary, emergency housing.

The Governor's budget proposal also includes approximately \$472,000 in mitigation funding, to be split between the county, local cities, and local schools. An additional \$21.3 million in infrastructure upgrades are also being proposed for water conservation equipment, expansion of the water treatment facility, storm drainage, and electrical work.

"Governor Schwarzenegger has proposed a comprehensive prison reform package that provides much needed space in our prisons for programs that will better equip inmates for a crime-free life after their incarceration. Local communities, law enforcement, and elected officials must all be engaged as part of the solution to the problems facing California due to crime, and jail and prison overcrowding," said Secretary Tilton. "The Governor's urgently-needed prison

## Fire Season Begins May 3



Secretary Tilton talks with inmate firefighters at Sierra Conservation Center about the upcoming fire season, during an April 4 visit to the institution.

reforms are expected to be acted on as part of the state budget, which will be voted on by this summer. With courts threatening to take over the prison system and considering forcing the early release of inmates, lawmakers must take immediate action to ensure that inmates are not set free before they have served their time."

These proposals are designed to relieve overcrowding without prematurely releasing offenders by adding 78,000 beds in state prisons and local jails. It will also provide the space needed for education, rehabilitative

programs, and medical, dental and mental health care. This comprehensive package will address California's high recidivism rates by funding programs to help offenders with drug treatment, job training and housing assistance.

The Governor's proposal also devotes \$1.6 billion to build secure re-entry facilities in local communities to help inmates successfully transition back into society.

## RUN..(From page four)

Any and all makes/models of motorcycles are strongly encouraged to participate.

Proceeds collected from sponsorships and rider participation fees will be donated in-part to two 501(c)(3) charitable organizations: This year, the organization to be recognized and honored for their work with crime

victims is W.E.A.V.E, a Sacramento County-based non-profit organization providing services to women, children/adolescents, and men who victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse/assault. For more information about this non-profit organization, please go to [www.weaveinc.org](http://www.weaveinc.org). Also to be recognized is honored is Divas

For A Cure [www.divasforacure.org](http://www.divasforacure.org), a national non-profit organization providing services to breast cancer victims/survivors and breast cancer education/research.

**For more information and registration information, please visit the official website at [www.CPOMR.com](http://www.CPOMR.com)**